



Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR 1963

A. W. PRINGLE,
B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

B. H. BURNE,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. EWART RUSE,
A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,

BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



HEALTH COMMITTEE
(Constituted May, 1963)

Alderman G. Davies (Chairman)
Councillor N. Thompson (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor H. W. Poole, J.P. (Mayor)
Councillor D. A. Wallace (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor D. T. Bates
Councillor H. Cordery
Councillor C. G. Cousins, J.P.
Councillor R. D. Hall
Councillor T. Hutchison
Councillor G. T. Llewellyn
Councillor R. S. Pearce

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. W. Pringle, B.A., M.B., B.C.H., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

B. H. Burne, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

SENIOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Douglas Andrew, C.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Dennis W. Rixon, C.R.S.H.

Eric W. J. Miller, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

CLERICAL STAFF

Miss V. Slingsbury

Miss C. A. Campodonic

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"FRIAR'S CROFT,"
OXFORD ROAD,
AYLESBURY.

June, 1964.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

The picture presented by the statistics for 1963 is one of an increasing population with a high birth rate, a low infant mortality rate and no maternal deaths. This is an encouraging picture in every respect, but for those who can see beyond the figures it poses a number of problems in the fields of health and social welfare. The increase in population was not what the statisticians would call a natural increase. In other words, only a small part of the increase was due to the excess of births over deaths in the Borough; it was mainly due to a steady movement of population into the Borough from other areas, some far afield.

This, then, was a period when the transformation of Aylesbury from a market town to a predominantly industrial community was being accelerated. The main problem in the health sphere is to ensure that health (including hospital services), housing and welfare services keep pace with the increased demands made upon them. I am well aware that the Council and other Bodies have given most careful consideration to this, but I think it worth mentioning so that those not solely concerned with local affairs may appreciate the need for parallel development of both voluntary and statutory services in the Borough. It may be necessary for them to bring forward their development plans in the light of an expected annual injection of fresh population requiring more help from these services over a number of years.

During the year I was appointed to membership of the Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee. I have found this most helpful in keeping abreast of trends and developments on the hospital side.

I would like to thank the staff of the Health Department for another good year's work, and Members of the Committee for their continued interest and support throughout the year.

TYPHOID FEVER

Because of the large number of visitors to Zermatt the serious outbreak of typhoid fever there early in the year had repercussions far beyond the frontiers of Switzerland. There was a good deal of outspoken criticism of the way in which the outbreak was handled, much of which appears to have been justified, and it may be that similar outbreaks at continental holiday resorts will tend to be underestimated because of the serious financial loss involved in swift action and publicity. However, the lasting impression should be that clean water and sound sewage disposal are just as important to-day as they always have been.

Two people, one returning from Zermatt and one a contact of a case infected there, were kept under observation combined with repeated laboratory tests. Neither developed the disease.

During May an Italian lady developed typhoid fever, having returned from a visit to Italy with her husband and two children sixteen days previously. The timing of events and failure to find any local source of infection suggested that she had become infected while in Italy, and subsequent typing of the bacillus, which corresponded with a type causing cases in Southern Italy, tended to confirm this. All medical staff who had attended her before diagnosis, and all family and other contacts who could be traced, were placed under observation until cleared by laboratory tests. Two food handling contacts were at once excluded from their employment until cleared.

There were no secondary cases, but after treatment and repeated negative tests the patient relapsed after discharge from hospital and the family contacts had to be again subjected to tests. After further treatment she became non-infective.

TUBERCULOSIS

A glance at the last column of the table below will show that the downward trend in new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was noticeably interrupted in 1959 and 1963. It is interesting to compare the nationalities of those notified during these two years. Whereas in 1959 all new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were British, with two exceptions, in 1963 almost half the cases were Italian or Pakistani. Without accurate figures for numbers of the various immigrant groups in the Borough it is not possible to give the rate per thousand, but it is clearly much higher than for the general population.

NEW CASES

Year	Population	Total	Respiratory	Rate per 1,000 of Population
1954	21,200	21	16	0.75
1955	21,330	18	18	0.84
1956	21,800	17	16	0.73
1957	22,360	16	14	0.63
1958	22,960	16	11	0.48
1959	23,580	22	17	0.72
1960	24,410	12	6	0.25
1961	27,040	5	5	0.18
1962	29,090	10	7	0.24
1963	31,030	17	15	0.48

The Council made representations to the Ministry of Health requesting that arrangements should be made for examination of immigrants at ports and airports so that those with tuberculosis might receive treatment before taking up residence in Britain. In his reply, the Minister stated that this matter was the subject of discussions on ways and means of overcoming the considerable difficulties in carrying out such examinations. He hoped that a satisfactory solution would be reached.

The Mass Radiography Service visited the Borough between the 3rd April and the 17th July, 1963, at my request. There was close co-operation between the Service and the Health Department in arranging advance publicity, and amongst other measures notices were printed in Pakistani and Italian and distributed to firms and households. The response from firms was very good, 83% of employees volunteered for chest X-ray, but the response from the general public was surprisingly poor.

Summary of Newly Discovered Significant Cases of Tuberculosis

Group	Number Examined	Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Rate per Thousand	Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Rate per Thousand
Firms	6,830	3	.44	5	.73
General Public ..	3,479	3	.86	1	.29
Aylesbury Prison	195	—	—	—	—
Total ..	10,504	6	.57	6	.57

The response from two of the immigrant groups was as follows:—

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
Italian	90	59	149
Pakistanis	41	—	41

In order to present a balanced view of the situation at the end of 1963 I should make it clear that the increased rate of new cases per thousand population brought Aylesbury to about the national average, and secondly, that there is no clear indication at present that the general population are being infected by any particular group. However, in making these two points, I do not wish to seem in the least complacent.

I wish to thank the County Chest Physician for his active co-operation.

Intestinal Infections

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning or dysentery during the year. There were, however, a number of apparently isolated cases confined to families—I say apparently because there is no doubt that these cases were linked to other unrecognised cases or carriers, although investigation failed to reveal the link. This is particularly so with mild cases of sonne dysentery whose symptoms may clear up without medical advice, and who are unaware of their potential to infect others.

The importance of the observation of the simple rules of personal hygiene in limiting the spread of this type of infection is obvious.

Work on the source and spread of the salmonella group of food poisoning organisms has been going on for a number of years at the Colindale Public Health Laboratories. It has been demonstrated that cattle and pig foods and bone meal manures quite frequently contain these organisms so that when animals come to slaughter they may be excreting them. Only strict enforcement of the rules applying to slaughterhouses can form a barrier at this late stage should an infected animal come for slaughter. Work is proceeding on methods of sterilizing feeding stuffs, possibly by gamma radiation, and if successful would represent a major advance in preventing food poisoning. There is also evidence to suggest that a closer control on imported meat may be required.

Venereal Disease

It is not possible to get complete local figures for venereal disease because some cases are treated by their General Practitioners and some prefer to attend hospital clinics at some distance from their homes. There has been no previous year to year comparison of figures for patients from the Borough attending the special clinic at the Royal Bucks Hospital so that I am unable to make a comparison for this year, but it is encouraging to note that no cases are recorded as occurring under the age of 18 years.

The County Health Committee agreed to appoint a medical social worker, part of whose time would be devoted to contact tracing and social follow-up of cases under treatment. It is hoped that this, combined with health education, will prevent the spread of infection, but it should be recognised that this is a moral as well as a social problem, the incidence showing a clear link with the moral climate of the day.

Fluoridation of Water Supplies

Although the Council, in company with the other Local Authorities in the mid-Bucks area, passed a resolution in favour of fluoridation of the water supplies, it may be some time before this beneficial measure can be put into practice. As I mentioned in my Report to the Public Health Committee, as matters stand at present, the agreement of all Authorities supplied from the same source will be necessary. During November the County Council asked the County Councils Association to continue to pursue with the Ministry of Health means by which a uniform policy for fluoridation of water might be achieved. It seems unlikely, however, that any progress will be made until the outcome of the legal action concerning fluoridation at Watford is known.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
A. W. PRINGLE,
B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	3,588 acres
Population (estimated mid-1963)	31,030
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1963 according to Rate Books)	9,189
Rateable Value	£1,766,051
Sum represented by a penny rate	£7,240

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:—

			1962			1963		
			M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	..	..	284	314	598	326	351	677
Illegitimate	..	..	20	21	41	26	21	47
						1962		1963
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	21.97		23.33
Rate (corrected)	..	..	..	..	..	18.24		21.00
Rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	18.0		18.2
Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births)					..	6.42		6.49

Still Births:—

				1962			1963	
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	5	8	13	7	2	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
						1962		1963
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		19.94		12.28	

DEATHS

		1962			1963		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Deaths	..	155	98	253	169	142	311
					1962		1963
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	8.70		10.02
Standardised Rate	..	..	..	..	11.22		12.22
Rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	11.9		12.2

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

			1962			1963		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	6	4	10	5	3	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—	2	—	2

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

				1962	1963
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	15.65	13.81
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..			16.72	11.86
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..			—	42.55
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	..			21.4	20.9

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

		1962			1963		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1	—
1962			1963			1963	
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births			..		10.95	9.67	

Deaths of infants under 1 week of age:—

		1962			1963		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	4	2	6	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1	—

		1962	1963
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	9.39
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	29.14
			19.10

Maternal Mortality:—

Number of deaths (including abortion)	..	..	Nil	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..	—	—

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

			M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3
Syphilitic disease	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	23
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—
Diabetes	—
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	10
Coronary disease, angina	37
Hypertension with heart disease	4

Other heart disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	20
Other circulatory disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	6
Influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	10
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	3
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
Congenital malformations ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	12
Motor vehicle accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
All other accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	7
Suicide ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Homicide and operations of war ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
							169	142

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

During the year the Royal Bucks, Tindal General and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals have provided accommodation for surgical and medical cases, whilst the Isolation Hospital continued to admit persons suffering from infectious diseases.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital also provided accommodation for paraplegic cases.

The above hospitals situated in the Borough are administered by the Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee, who are responsible to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville

Routine samples of milk, ice cream and water and other specimens requiring bacteriological examination were sent to this Laboratory throughout the year. Reports were received with the minimum delay, and the help and advice given by the Medical Director were much appreciated.

Ambulance Services

These are provided by the Bucks County Council, and are under the direction of the County Medical Officer. Eleven ambulances and four dual purpose vehicles were available at the Ambulance Headquarters, Buckingham Road, for use in the Borough and surrounding districts. There is two-way radio link between all vehicles and Headquarters.

The majority of long distance journeys are carried out by train, stretcher cases being accommodated in reserved compartments. All casualties in the Borough are conveyed to the Casualty Department at the Royal Bucks. Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Clinics were functioning during the year:—

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Doctor attended</i>
Pebble Lane	Every Tuesday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday	Each session
Quarrendon	1st and 3rd Wednesday	Each session
Southeourt	1st and 3rd Wednesday	Each session
Limes Avenue,	Every Monday	Each session
Tring Road		

There was a total of 6,437 attendances at these Clinics. Besides advice on the health of infants and toddlers given to individual mothers, there were talks on a variety of health subjects for groups at the Clinics. Courses of immunisation against smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus were available or could be given by the family doctor. Almost all parents who attended the Clinics were anxious that their children should have the maximum immunity against these diseases, but there was still a minority of the population who failed to take this advantage.

I am happy to report that once again there were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria in the Borough, which conclusively demonstrates the effectiveness of immunisation against these two diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total notifications received				Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	
	1962		1963		1962	1963
			Male	Female		
Measles	85	225	262	—	—	17*
Whooping Cough	6	1	2	—	—	—
Dysentery	6	5	1	5*	—	3)
Scarlet Fever	4	3	4	—	—	3*)
Pneumonia	5	1	7	1	—	—
Meningoeeoccal Infection	—	1	2	—	—	3
Typhoid Fever	—	—	1	—	—	1

* Manor House

**Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during
the year with Analysis under Age Groups**

		Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Age Unknown	Totals
Measles	10	133	120	197	13	12	2	—	—	—	—	487
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	1	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	1	—	—	8
Meningococcal infection	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	1 (1)	—	—	—
5—	—	1	—	—
15—	2 (1)	1 (2)	—	—
25—	3	2 (1)	—	1
35—	— (1)	2	—	—
45—	1 (1)	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	1	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
Total:	9 (4)	6 (3)	1	1

The figures in brackets denote the number of cases notified originally in other districts, and who have moved into the Borough during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Report of survey carried out at Royal Bucks Hospital (Staff) on 11.11.63

Response—69%

Summary of Work

				Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	42	149	191
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	33	119	152
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	9	30	39

Report of survey carried out at Manor House Hospital on 12.11.63

Response from staff—73%

Summary of Work

				Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	23	115	138
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	10	32	42
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	13	83	96

Summary of newly discovered significant cases of Tuberculosis

Group		Number Examined	Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
				Male	Female
Staff	73	—	—
Patients	65	—	—
Total	138	—	—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Contacts Hazell, Watson, & Viney Ltd. 13.11.63

Summary of Work

				Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	38	1	39
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	36	—	36
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	2	1	3

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the Borough is obtained through the Bucks Water Board from wells situated at Danvers End, New Ground, Hawridge and High Wycombe.

Sampling has been carried out during the year by the Water Authority at their wells and also in the town.

Thirteen samples were taken by this Department from domestic sources in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the main supply and the quantity of water supplied to the town is adequate.

Drainage—Central Area

The Corporation have now completed the last of the schemes for the removal of surface water drainage from the combined system within the central area, and although the whole of the surface water has not been separated from the foul drainage, within this area, it can be assumed that the Borough is drained on the separate system.

Sewage Disposal Works

The new Sewage Disposal Works constructed at the confluence of the Bear Brook and the River Thame has now been in operation for a year.

Public Cleansing

Refuse disposal is carried out completely by controlled tipping, which is giving very satisfactory results. Salvage collection is made before and after tipping of the refuse. The new controlled tip at Calvert should be in operation by May, 1964.

The Corporation's suction type sweeper has proved itself invaluable during the year, especially with the removal of some 600 tons of sand and grit deposited on the roads during the severe conditions of last winter.

Open-Air Swimming Pool, Park Street

The water in the pool circulates continuously throughout the period of use, being filtered and chlorinated before re-introduction to the swimming pool.

Sixty-eight samples of water were taken for chlorine content and pH value during the summer months.

Slipper Baths

Attendances at the Slipper Baths, adjoining the Swimming Pool at Park Street amounted to a total of 4,366 during the year. The total for 1962 was 4,477.

Schools

The water supply and sanitary accommodation to all schools in the Borough are adequate.

Local Rainfall

January ..	..	.51 ins.	July ..	..	..	1.19 ins.
February ..	..	.30 ins.	August ..	..	..	3.45 ins.
March ..	..	2.95 ins.	September ..	..	..	2.47 ins.
April ..	..	2.34 ins.	October ..	..	..	1.39 ins.
May ..	..	2.01 ins.	November ..	..	..	4.33 ins.
June ..	..	2.90 ins.	December ..	..	..	.61 ins.
Total rainfall for the year ..			.. .. .. ..
Average for the past 58 years ..			24.45 ins.			
(Figures supplied by Mr. G. B. Hannay, Borough Engineer and Surveyor).						

Mr. Hannay stated that rain fell on 161 days during the year, compared with 140 days in 1962.

The highest daily recordings occurred on 3rd August (1.25 ins.) and on 17th November (.90 ins.).

The readings for January and February consist mostly of melting snow and snow showers; little, if any, rain fell during that period. The rainfall recorded for July was the lowest for 8 years for that month, October the second lowest for 12 years and December the lowest for 10 years. The monthly recordings for March, April, August and November were above average, March and November being the highest for 12 years.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

This Department is no longer concerned in the registration of milk retailers. No sampling of milk was done by the Borough during the year.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	1,656	272	168	4,443	2,177
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ..		6	3	11	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	484	18	2	76	275
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	29.23 %	8.82 %	2.98 %	1.96 %	12.77 %
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ..	1	4	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	4	3	—	—	15
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	0.30 %	2.57 %	—	—	0.69 %
Cysticercus Bovis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	11	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ..	11	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Thirteen licences were issued to slaughtermen during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of this Act in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health

	Inspections	Number of	
		Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power	27	—	—
Factories with mechanical power			

2. Defects found—Nil

Outwork in unwholesome premises

There are ten outworkers' premises in the town, all of which are in a satisfactory condition.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"FRIAR'S CROFT,"
OXFORD ROAD,
AYLESBURY.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1963. The figures in brackets denote work carried out during 1962.

HOUSING

The houses in the Cambridge Street Clearance Area, to which reference was made in my last Report, were purchased, the tenants re-housed and the properties demolished during the year. One of the two Slum Clearance Areas reported during 1962 was confirmed by the Minister without objection, but in the second case objections were received, and by the end of the year an Inquiry was pending but had not been held. Two further Areas, containing twelve houses in all, were reported during the year, and the necessary Orders made.

In addition to this work, three houses included in the Slum Clearance Programme but purchased for road widening purposes, were certified by the Medical Officer of Health as unfit for habitation.

No Closing Orders were made during the year, but one property, the subject of a Closing Order, was made fit and the Closing Order determined.

In consequence of action taken by the Department a total of thirty houses was demolished during the year.

No applications for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957, were received during the year, but one certificate of cancellation was issued, the application being received on 6th December, 1962. Only one visit was made in this connection during the year.

The inspection of houses in multi-occupation was continued during the year, and all known cases inspected. It is difficult to keep an accurate record of these houses as no prior notification is necessary, and it is sometimes some months before the office becomes aware that a house has become occupied by members of more than one family. Fifty-three such houses were inspected during the year, and on the whole the general condition of the houses was satisfactory. In no case was it found necessary for formal action to be taken, although informal notices were sent to five owners of properties asking them to reduce the number of occupants, and to three other owners regarding such matters as inadequate sanitary arrangements and

dampness. The houses in multi-occupation will continue to be kept under surveillance, all new cases found and reported to the Department will be inspected as soon as possible, and re-inspections made, particularly in those cases where conditions were not entirely satisfactory.

The general work carried out by the Department under the Housing Act is set out in the following table.

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	43	(73)
Visits paid to above houses ..	..	..	..	113	(206)
Informal Notices served ..	..	..	..	26	(41)
Statutory Notices served ..	..	..	..	3	(5)
Miscellaneous housing visits	..	..	..	148	(199)
<i>Houses repaired:—</i>					
By owners ..	..	..	..	34	(32)
By the Borough Council in default			..	1	(6)

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Appended below is the table of inspections made under the Public Health Acts, and again it is apparent that this is only a small part of the work of the Department. Although known as the Public Health Department, the modern concept of public health covers such a wide field that only a small portion of the Department's work is done under the actual Public Health Acts, the larger portion being covered by other Acts which are mentioned in the Report. It will be seen that the duties under these Acts are mainly concerned with drainage and nuisance, and the majority of the statutory notices were in connection with drainage work. The one informal notice not complied with relates to the air-raid shelters in Northern Road, in which case difficulty is being experienced in establishing the ownership of the property, and therefore the person on whom a notice can be served. This matter is receiving urgent attention and it is hoped some means will be found to deal with the situation.

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	92	(86)
Visits paid to above houses ..	..	..	..	166	(228)
Drainage visits	..	..	..	665	(258)
Drainage tests	..	..	..	122	(20)
Nuisances found	..	..	..	150	(79)
Nuisances abated	..	..	..	149	(79)
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	9	(6)
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	26	(27)

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Few complaints of noise nuisance were made during the year, only two inspections under the Act being carried out. No notices were served under this Act.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS AND DISINFESTATION

The slight downward trend evident over the past few years in the infestations by rodents, was continued, but the change is so slight that it is still evident that there is no cause for complacency in the situation. An analysis of the actual returns would show that there was a rise in the number of infestations reported in the early part of the year, which dropped off again in the summer months. One interesting point which arises from the statistics this year is that whilst the number of rat bodies found shows a marked decrease, the number of mouse bodies found shows a slight increase. As I have stated previously, to regard this slight decrease as cause for reducing the service would be a mistake, as with the rapid breeding of these pests any halting of the work of destruction would inevitably lead to a rapid increase in the rodent population.

Treatment of the sewers was again carried out in the spring and autumn, and although twenty-four further manholes were tested on these occasions, the manholes showing takes was reduced from eight to five, and it would appear that the infestations, both on the ground and in the sewers, are being kept well under control.

The agreement service for the treatment of factories and shops was continued, there being one further reduction in the number of agreements this year. The income from the service rose from £237.5.0 to £243.12.0, this being the result of a 5% increase on all agreements. It can, I think, be taken as an indication that the service is appreciated from the fact that all firms under agreement accepted the 5% increase as reasonable, and the one resignation was due to a firm going out of business and not to refusal to pay the 5% increase.

The amount recovered from work carried out on other business premises again shows a decrease, but this, I think, is unavoidable with the gradual decline in the rodent population. The free service to private houses was continued, and in this connection it is interesting to notice that several complaints of rats, either under the floor or in the roof space, have been received from tenants of newly occupied property. It does appear that there is a risk, on properties being built on land which was previously agricultural, of rats being shut in the house during construction and only becoming apparent when the house is occupied.

Work in connection with the destruction of wasps nests showed a marked increase over the previous year, seventy-seven nests being destroyed compared with six in the previous year.

Once again I am extremely pleased to be able to report that no infestations of bed bugs or fleas were received during the year.

A summary of the work carried out under this Act during the year is appended:—

Private Premises treated	..	..	..	..	157	(174)
Business Premises treated	..	..	..	..	94	(96)
Local Authority Premises treated	..	..	..	..	16	(18)
Rat bodies found	..	..	..	..	489	(672)
Mouse bodies found	..	..	..	..	174	(163)
Points laid—Private Premises	..	..	..	..	447	(499)
Points laid—Business Premises	..	..	..	..	457	(505)
Points laid—Local Authority Premises	..	..	..	..	156	(287)
Manholes treated	..	..	..	..	108	(84)
Visits made by Public Health Inspectors	..	..	..	..	64	(158)
Wasps Nests destroyed	..	..	..	..	77	(6)

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Mechanical factories on register requiring visiting	100	(102)
Non-mechanical factories on register requiring visiting	18	(20)
Visits paid to factories	27	(45)

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The Aylesbury No. 1. (Bedgrove) Smoke Control Order was approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in April, and came into effect on 1st November. Of those houses requiring adaptation of fireplaces, applications for grant towards the conversions were received and approved in twelve cases and grants amounting to £118.15.6 were paid.

In order to assist householders in their choice of appliances and to give some publicity to the Order, a mobile exhibition, in which the Coal Utilisation Council, the Gas Board and the Electricity Board took part, was held by kind permission of Messrs. Jones Ltd., on a site on the corner of Tring Road and Bedgrove. The exhibition was officially opened by Alderman Davies, Chairman of the Health Committee, but unfortunately the attendance at this time was most disappointing. From conversations which I had with the personnel manning the various exhibitions it appeared that interest was higher later in the week, and those who participated felt the effort had been worthwhile. No difficulties were experienced with regard to the supply of smokeless fuel during the winter, but because of statements made in Parliament, and in view of certain circulars issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government regarding the prospects of future supplies of non-premium smokeless fuels, no steps were taken during the year towards the setting up of a further Smoke Control Area in the Borough. Because of continued criticism of the supplies of smokeless fuels, a meeting was held in December at which, in addition to members of the Health Committee, local coal merchants, representatives of the Coal Board and the Coal Utilisation Council, and the Area Coke Manager were present. The Area Coke Manager and the National Coal Board's representatives said that whilst premium fuels were in short supply, there were ample supplies of non-premium smokeless fuels for both open and closed stoves, and no difficulties in obtaining them were envisaged. The local coal merchants raised the problem of storage facilities and said that these would become more difficult with the closing of the High Street railway depot, and asked if assistance could be given in providing land for storage purposes. It was subsequently learnt that the National Coal Board proposes setting up a central fuel depot in Aylesbury, and in view of this the request from the coal merchants was not proceeded with. Following the reports concerning the future supplies of smokeless fuels, particularly those for the open fire, the Government have intimated that they propose to introduce measures in the Housing Bill, at present before the House, to amend the Clean Air Act in certain directions. In view of this it was felt that any action concerning a further smoke control area should be postponed until the Bill has been enacted.

On the industrial side few complaints of smoke nuisance were received, and it was not found necessary to serve any notices in this connection during the year.

The investigation into atmospheric pollution being carried out in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, was continued and the two final stations were brought into operation during the year. The pattern of pollution which had become apparent with the two earlier stations was continued, and the readings at the Town Hall are still the highest in the town. The other two stations at Oak Green School and the Grammar School show less pollution of both smoke and sulphur dioxide than those in the town centre. It is still too early to come to any hard and fast findings in this matter, but it is hoped in the next annual report to draw some comparisons between the readings at the four different stations.

Eighty-eight visits in connection with the Clean Air Act were made during the year.

FOOD

Slaughterhouse

The inspection of meat at the slaughterhouse is still one of the most important aspects of the work of the Department, and the one which occupies the greatest individual time. With the coming into operation on 1st October of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, even more importance was attached to this duty. Whilst 100% inspection had been maintained in Aylesbury ever since the war years, the position did not obtain throughout the country, and there were areas, particularly large scattered rural areas with small staffs, and a number of slaughterhouses, in which 100% meat inspection was not attained. It may not be generally realised that prior to the introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations there was no duty laid upon local authorities to ensure that any meat was inspected, although there was a statutory duty on the slaughterhouse occupier to notify the local authority of his intention to slaughter animals and to report any diseased condition which he found. The new Regulations, for the first time, made obligatory the inspection of animals, imposed a duty upon the Inspector to stamp each carcase inspected and found fit for human consumption, and allowed the local authority to make a charge on the slaughterhouse proprietor, or person owning the animals slaughtered, for the services of inspection. They also, for the first time, prescribed a standard method of inspection and set out criteria of unfitness for human consumption. Whilst these latter two points had previously been governed by memorandum, which differed only in relatively minor ways from the new Regulations, and whilst it had been the practice in Aylesbury for many years to carry out inspections in conformity with the memorandum and to follow the indications of unsoundness as set out, there is now a statutory obligation to follow these rules, and this does place an increased responsibility on the Inspectors, as it is the requirement that meat passed as fit for human consumption is stamped in such a way as to identify the Inspector who carried out the examination. These additional duties have increased not only the responsibilities of the Inspector, but the time spent on meat inspection. It will be noted that although this is the first complete year when only one slaughterhouse was in operation, the visits necessary have fallen only from 451 to 428, whilst the hours worked outside

normal office hours have risen from 125 to 162, and have included inspection on two Saturdays and one early morning. As previously stated, the high incidence of work outside normal working hours is due to the restrictions as to lairing of cattle overnight placed on the slaughterhouse proprietor, resulting in a late start being made on the day's slaughtering. The forecast last year of a further drop in the animals slaughtered has been borne out in fact, and although there was a slight increase in the number of cows slaughtered, there have been noticeable decreases in the other categories of animals dealt with, and the total kill has fallen from 11,210 to 8,716.

The tables showing the causes of condemnations at the slaughterhouse follow, and it will be seen that tuberculosis is again a very rare occurrence, and that the number of cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* has also dropped to eleven.

**Number of animals slaughtered and
inspected during 1963**

Quarter	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1st	59	390	46	489	556	1,540
2nd	61	412	27	476	484	1,460
3rd	71	419	48	1,468	507	2,513
4th	81	435	47	2,010	630	3,203
Totals	272	1,656	168	4,443	2,177	8,716
Totals for 1962	252	2,237	241	6,032	2,448	11,210

Tables showing Condemned Organs of Animals

CATTLE

	Head	Tongue	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Spleen	Skirt	Mesentery
Distoma Hepaticum			284	3	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis			1	1	—	—	—	—
Abscessed	..		74	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation	..		5	48	3	13	5	—
Cystic	..		5	14	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	..		1	—	—	—	—	—
Tumoured	..		2	—	—	—	—	—
Cavernous Angioma			16	—	—	—	—	—
Congestion	..		—	3	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	..		—	6	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis			—	—	2	—	—	—
Actinomycosis			—	—	—	—	—	—
Actinobacillosis			—	—	—	—	—	—
Emphysema	..		—	2	—	—	—	—
Parasitic	..		3	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy	..		—	3	—	—	—	—
Echinococci	..		1	1	—	—	—	—
Necrosis	..		1	—	—	—	—	—

T.B. Reactors

	Head	Tongue	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Mesentery	Spleen
Distoma Hepaticum ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Inflammation ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	4	—	1	—
Cavernous Angioma ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cystic ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Abscessed ..	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Fasciolae ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Oedema	..	..	..	..	3
T.B. Reactors					
Oedema	..	..	..	..	2
Oedema and Emaciation	..	..	..	..	1
Generalised Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	5
			Total	..	8

In addition to the details given above, eleven carcases were found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* and transferred to cold storage before being released for human consumption.

SHEEP

	Liver	Head	Pluck	Lungs	Heart
Distoma Hepaticum ..	9	—	—	—	—
Inflammation ..	—	—	3	—	—
Fatty Change ..	3	—	—	—	—
Parasitic ..	25	—	—	—	—
Abscessed ..	1	—	1	—	1
Cystic ..	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	1	1	—	—

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Fevered	..	..	..	..	2
Moribund	..	..	..	..	2
Dropsical	..	..	..	..	1
Oedema	..	..	..	..	2
Uraemia	..	..	..	..	1
Peritonitis	..	..	..	..	1
Haemorrhagic and bruised	..	..	..	..	1
Extensive bruising ..	..	..	..	..	1
			Total	..	11

PIGS

		Lungs	Head	Heart	Pluck	Liver	Spleen	Tongue
Pneumonia	.. ..	79	—	18	11	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	.. ..	—	15	—	—	—	—	1
Inflammation	.. ..	30	—	27	8	—	—	—
Abscessed	.. ..	—	3	—	1	1	—	1
Distoma Hepaticum	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Parasitic	.. ..	—	—	—	5	116	—	—
Pleurisy	.. ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	.. ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Peritonitis and Oedema	.. ..	..	1
Oedema	.. ..	..	1
Septic Peritonitis	.. ..	..	1
Total		..	3

CALVES

Head

Actinomycosis	1
---------------	-------	----	---

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Moribund	.. ..	..	1
Oedema	.. ..	..	2
Total		..	3

Weight of Condemned Meat and Offal

					lbs.
Cow Beef	..	..	..	..	5,347
Cow Offal	..	..	..	..	867
Other Beef	..	..	..	..	366
Other Bovine Offal	..	..	..	..	5,711
Pork	..	..	..	..	199
Pig Offal	..	..	..	..	801
Mutton	..	..	..	..	518
Sheep Offal	..	..	..	..	225
Veal	..	..	..	..	237
Calf Offal	..	..	..	..	21
			Total	..	14,292

Total: 6 tons 7 cwts. 2 qtrs. 12 lbs.

Total for 1962: 6 tons 18 cwts. 1 qtrs. 4 lbs.

Thirteen slaughterman's licences were issued during the year.

The amount of foodstuffs surrendered and disposed of from wholesale and retail premises in the Borough as a result of inspections carried out, often on request from shopkeepers, follows:—

		WEIGHT		NUMBER
		lbs.	ozs.	
Cheese	..	128	15	—
Fresh Fruit	..	2	3	—
Fresh Meat	..	465	5	—
Butter	..	292	12	—
Eggs	..	97	14	708
Tinned Vegetables	..	184	4	215
Tinned Fruit	..	1,207	10	993
Tinned Meat	..	858	13	208
Tinned Fish	..	43	9	95
Tinned Milk	..	223	15	98
Preserves	..	182	12	155
Miscellaneous	..	576	5	282
Total	..	4,264	5	2,754

Total Foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

Meat and Offal	6 tons	7 cwts.	2 qtrs.	12 lbs.	0 ozs.
Various Foodstuffs	1 ton	18 cwts.	0 qtrs.	8 lbs.	5 ozs.
Total ..	8 tons	5 cwts.	2 qtrs.	20 lbs.	5 ozs.
Total for 1962	8 tons	14 cwts.	1 qtr.	12 lbs.	15 ozs.

Disposal of condemned food is left to the retailer.

MILK AND DAIRIES

As mentioned in last year's report, the only duty now remaining with the Borough Council under this heading is that of registering milk retailers. The milk distribution trade is now confined to the distribution of milk in bottles and containers as received from wholesalers, and supervision by this Department is very much less important than it was in previous years. Seven visits only were made to dairy premises during the year. Milk producers are licensed and controlled by the County Agricultural Committee acting as agents for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

ICE CREAM

One hundred and six premises in the area are registered for the sale of ice-cream, in addition to which a number of itinerant vendors, who are not subject to registration, perambulate the streets in various vehicles selling ice cream and ice lollies. The majority of the ice cream sold in the Borough by the various retailers is produced by a relatively small number of large manufacturers, and it is therefore unnecessary to take a large number of samples to check the methods of production. Fifteen samples of ice-cream were submitted for analysis during the year, and were graded as follows:—

Grade 1 — 14 samples
Grade 2 — 1 sample

Twenty-four visits were paid to registered ice cream dealers premises during the year.

Concern continues to be felt in regard to the manufacturer mentioned in my last Report whose ice lollies and ice cream were giving cause for alarm. The investigation by the Public Health Laboratory at Colindale was concluded, and the manufacturer undertook to carry out certain alterations to plant and cleansing technique, as suggested by the Laboratory. Efforts to ascertain whether in fact these steps had secured any improvement in the final product were unsuccessful as no vehicles of this particular manufacturer could be found in the town, and therefore no samples could be obtained. Whether this absence was due to the action taken by this authority it is difficult to say, but should the vehicles re-appear in the Borough efforts will at once be made to obtain further samples.

FOOD SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, ETC.

The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene in all food premises was again found to be satisfactory, and no statutory action was necessary throughout the year. Although in many premises, particularly the restaurants in the town, the properties do not lend themselves to ideal standards of hygiene in that in many cases there is no back entrance and all goods and refuse have to be handled in and out of the shops, the standards achieved are well within those required by the Food Hygiene Regulations. In practically every instance the standards of the premises and equipment are excellent, but the task of impressing the need for food hygiene on the staff, which is often subject to change, presents some difficulty. The table, setting out the inspections made in this connection, which follows, shows that in practically every instance an increased number of inspections has been made, and this problem is receiving the attention which it requires:—

Market Stalls	..	..	962	(891)
Grocers	..	..	206	(180)
Butchers	..	..	33	(30)
Restaurants	..	..	59	(76)
Fishmongers	..	..	2	(7)
Food Preparing Premises		..	20	(4)

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the Borough is supplied with piped water obtained from the Chiltern Hills by the Bucks Water Board.

Thirteen samples taken during the year satisfied the standards laid down by the Ministry of Health.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

As in previous years the shopping pattern in Aylesbury remains unchanged, with all shops normally continuing to close at hours earlier than those allowed in the Act. Twenty-four visits were made during the year, but it was not found necessary to take any action in this connection against shopkeepers.

PETROLEUM

No difficulties have been experienced in connection with the storage of petroleum in the Borough. Particulars of licences issued and quantities licensed to be stored are as follows:—

Licences issued for storage of Petroleum Spirit and Mixtures	..	..	62	(63)
Licences issued for storage of Carbide of Calcium ..	..	..	1	(1)
Inspections of Petrol and Carbide Stores ..	..	..	37	(30)
Quantity licensed to be stored:—				
Petroleum Spirit ..	..	..	163,494 gallons.	(169,244 gallons.)
Petroleum Mixtures ..	..	..	3,975 gallons.	(1,975 gallons.)
Carbide of Calcium ..	..	..	300 lbs.	(300 lbs.)
Total of Licence Fees ..	..	..	£60.0.0	(£59.15.0)

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

In addition to what has now come to be the normal report of damage by vandals, and defacement of walls and fixtures in public conveniences, considerable difficulty was experienced in the early part of the year by the abnormal frosts, which resulted in two conveniences being closed for some weeks due to the total freezing up of the water supplies. Considerable damage was caused by this, and in the case of the Old Stoke Road Conveniences it was found necessary to provide an entirely new water supply, brought up in such a position that it is hoped that no future instance of this nature will recur.

The Cattle Market Conveniences were also closed, but in this instance the water supply was frozen below ground level as well as extensive damage in the roof space. The new installations have been carefully lagged, and again it is hoped that a recurrence of the trouble will not arise. Because of the closure of the Cattle Market and Old Stoke Road Conveniences, it was decided to keep the new Conveniences in Cambridge Street open all night, and as no exceptional additional damage arose from this step, Committee decided later in the year that these Conveniences, in common with all other unattended Conveniences in the Borough, should be left open throughout the night. Six hundred and twenty-eight inspections of the Conveniences were made during the year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Other work of the Department not covered by any of the previous headings include the following:—

Miscellaneous Public Health Visits ..	..	..	461	(499)
Interviews ..	..	..	898	(761)
Complaints received and investigated ..	..	..	227	(200)
Infectious Disease Visits ..	..	..	36	(26)
Smoke Visits ..	..	..	95	(123)
Marine Stores Visits ..	..	..	4	(12)
Moveable Dwellings inspected ..	..	..	9	(28)

GENERAL

Two new pieces of legislation affecting the Department were passed during the year, The Animal Boarding Establishments Act and The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. The former provides for the registration by the Local Authority of all establishments in which pet animals are boarded, and as there is only one such establishment within the Borough, it is not anticipated that this will lay any very heavy burden on the Department. The second Act is much more comprehensive, and will entail the registration of all offices, shops and certain premises in connection with the railways within the Borough. The duty of enforcement is divided between the Local Authority and the Factory Inspectorate, and whilst all offices in factories, most of those in connection with railway premises, and all Local Authority and Central Government offices, come under the supervision of the Factory Inspector, all other shops and offices will be dealt with by this Department. Regulations concerning the overcrowding provisions, provision of sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, first-aid equipment and notification of accidents, etc., will be made, and supervised by this Department. It is obvious that this Act will entail a considerable effort on the part of the staff of the Public Health Department. The initial registration and measurement of these premises will be heavy and it is considered the existing staff will not be able to cope efficiently with this work in its early stages, and an application will therefore be made to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for permission to engage temporary staff to deal with this work. The Act will come into operation only when the Minister of Labour by Order so appoints. An intimation has been received that it is anticipated that the sections regarding registration of premises will come into operation in the spring of 1964, and the majority of the remaining sections in about August of that year.

In addition to the two Acts referred to above, Meat Inspection Regulations, made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health, under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, were made in July and came into operation in October, as mentioned in the section of the Report dealing with slaughterhouses, and as already stated has meant an increase in the amount of time spent on this important duty.

Mr. Miller, Additional Public Health Inspector, resigned his appointment with the Council in October to take up a new post with the Devizes Rural District Council, and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the way in which he carried out his duties whilst with us, and to wish him well in his new appointment. A replacement for Mr. Miller had not been appointed by the end of the year, and this again placed additional duties on the remainder of the staff.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and Committee for their continued help and confidence, to my fellow Officers for advice and assistance, and last but by no means least, to the members of the staff of the Department for the efficient and cheerful manner in which they have carried out their duties throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,

W. EWART RUSE, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,
Borough Public Health Inspector.

Printed by
WHARTON & KERR LTD
47 Eastern Street, Aylesbury.